

432 Sph., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, 9th Poststr., N.Y.C.
Aug. 8, 1943

Hello Folks, -

The Esquire calendar I have tells me another week has rolled by, so as I've nothing to do right now - I'll start my weekly regular letter in accordance with Plan 8-K, or something!

Got up this morning and blew myself to some clean clothes! - The others had reached the point where even I couldn't stand 'em - besides they ran away during the night! - after that breakfast, shave, - clean up the tent, and then off to the flight line to look the plane over and check up on the crew. - Then to "operations" - and as nothing was cooking - back to the tent where I am now. After flying over 5 hrs. of formation yesterday on our mission - I wasn't exactly in the mood to fly this morning. - I probably would have, tho, - 'cept today being Sunday - I'd hate to break my record and miss Church! - Imagine me - I've

only missed once since we left the States! For me that is good!

- As for shaving & cleaning the tent - this is still the Army! - He can go without shaving but about once a week - but with this hard, cold water, that isn't for me. - I shave every day still, not because I'm "eager" - but because that's easiest on my face. - Besides a beard and lots of perspiration don't go too well together! - And our tents being clean - we have to keep ours clean so as to get on the enlisted men! - As in most cases - most everyone keeps dirt & trash from piling too high, naturally - but there are always a few who seem to be descended from the pig family - hence Army habits have to be brought to their attention! - Oh - well - gotta do something!

Got a lot of mail again yesterday! It seems to be coming thru O.K. now so that makes me happy! - In your last letter you mentioned getting so many of mine close together. - I had thought regular mail might have

2/ been delayed, due to the using of so many boats in the Sicilian Invasion. - See Swas right, evidently. - Just so it gets them eventually, that's all it counts. - Just you see it that way and don't worry if you don't hear for long spells.

Speaking of the Sicilian Invasion, which I suppose I shouldn't be - He made a raid on it the night - or late afternoon, before the troops landed. - Honestly, you've never seen or even imagined there were so many boats, of all kinds, in the whole world as we passed over to & from the Island! - I came back and noted in my diary, "if the invasion isn't tonight, I'll never know why not!" - Guess I'd better lay off the subject, tho. - Save 'em for some future date!

Had a chance to spend the day at the beach today - but at the time, I had to turn it down. - Thought Swas going to fly! - Now Swish I were there and will probably be searching the camp over for something to do.

Oh, yes. - Bob Hope is supposed to

put on a show for us tomorrow night. Don't know where it will be held, but there will be trucks to take us there. - Wouldn't miss him for anything, cause I imagine he will have extra stuff for us, overseas, and will be even better than on the radio. - - -

- after dinner. -

The mail came in and I hit "jack-pot" again! - When all the mail slows down to normal I'm going to feel left out! - Today I got 5 letters. - 2 from brother + 3 from sister - one having the pictures and stamps enclosed! - Yesterday I had a couple from sister and a couple from Fred! - Just keep it up, folks!

Golly. I can't see Ma riding a bicycle! I know Pop can do it - but all these years I've heard Ma threatening if she ever got a chance - and now she's gone and done it! - What a sight it must have been! Aren't you scared, Ma? Be sure and don't fall. - Couldn't you get Pop to rig up a shelf that would hold a mattress that way - you could always fall so as to land on the mattress!

3/ In sister's "real" letter she asked about "bugs" - Ha, - you should see them! - so far we managed to stay clear of the "lice" type, but bugs in general! - I can remember the time when if an ant crawled on some thing to eat - I threw it all ~~at~~ away. Now - I knock most of 'em off of it - and eat away. - The ants now have to look out for themselves! And other bugs - well, there are too many in Africa to worry about. If you turn over in bed - see something strange in there with you, - reach down and flick it out - at the same time utilizing some of your polished cuss words! - Polished because you've used them so often it's more natural to speak in those terms, and there can no longer be any rough edges left!

You asked about Bucher. - Since we've been here he has been sick - and couldn't fly for awhile. - During that time, I rode with a bunch of the old time pilots. - Now that he is O.K. and flying again, I'm still listed as his copilot and fly with him occasionally. - He got his Captaincy just before we left the States. Jim Carey - the navigator who came across

with us has been taken off our crew and we've been given another fellow who is a bombardier by training. - Jim was a celestial navigator. Jim is in our tent and all - but flies with someone else. - It doesn't make much difference over here. - They use each man for what he's trained for - and you might draw anyone to fly with. Then, too. - Jim has had hard luck in Africa. - When we first joined our sqdn. - he got malaria. - Then the other day, just after he got back to flying - he was in a jeep when it turned over and is now in the hospital with cuts and a broken arm! - Bad Luck isn't the word for it.

Me. - I'm glad of our new arrangements too. While Bucher is one of the best flyers - and I've learned a lot from him. - I'm sorta glad to get to go with some of the others. - While we are the best of friends - and we seldom argue - there's just a little something about our personalities that doesn't quite click it off. It just shows up once in a while. We don't have a whole lot of mutual interests - and yet we do, - if you know what I mean.

4/ Guess I've been "catty" long enough now, I'll change the subject, almost. -

As I told you, I've been officially checked out as a first pilot. - But so far, I've still flown on our raids as copilot. - Just around here locally in Africa do I fly as first pilot. - Later on after I've built up some more time and experience, I'll get my try at it. Anyhow - on missions outside of taking off + landing - the pilot and copilot share the time in flying, so it really makes no difference.

I was certainly glad to get those pictures. Don't know how I ever got away without any pictures of anyone - but except for the one of Janet, - I did! - Sometime you'll have to send me one of Joe Joe + family and the C. E. Jrs. I see in the ones of Janeta + Blondie I even have Matilda in the black ground looking on!

Yes, Henry wrote me of his father's heart attack. - Said he was pretty sick for awhile, but thought that he was O.K. again. Glad they, Henry + Phyl, - liked the clothes brush.

About the Argus - think you should send it - as I can get 35mm film for it from our photo section, I think. I can also

get 'em developed but they are short on the paper to print them on. I might have to send for some of that later on! - It would be better for me to get 'em developed & printed here on my own - cause sending the films back to the States entails censoring - and some I'll have I know will probably be censorable. - Anyway, you could & would still get the scenic ones - and the ones of the gang. - Maybe even one of me?

The cake - would be nice if you could send it and not deprive yourselves of any rationed article. I think we could worry it down. -! The candy - I know wouldn't stand the shipping - and the auto would be in it before I could. - Anyway - I'll make a written statement asking for something and you send it if you can or want to without too much bother.

Brother wrote me telling of his getting home at 3 A.M. and finding a "mumps" quarantine sign on his door!

Can't really think of anything more to say, now - so guess I'll stop and mail this. - Know you must be getting as tired of reading this "crap" as I am in writing it! - So, until

5/ next time - Bye + Love,
Frank.

P.S. - Please send me my Argus camera
and ~~some~~ a roll or two of film.

I would also like to have some
cake and/or candy if you can figure
out what could be sent without spoiling.

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Does that do it? -

